

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00505 151029Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ACDA-12 HA-05 /091 W

-----116567 151034Z /17

O R 151008Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6946

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0505

DEPT PASS DIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF PARATROOP CALL-UP

1. DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SEEN DAO REPORT IR 6 880 0111 78
REPORTING EVIDENCE THAT SADF HAS CALLED UP CITIZEN FORCE
PARATROOP UNITS AND THAT SAAF HAS BEEN ENGAGING IN
UNUSUAL TRAINING FLIGHTS SIMILAR TO THOSE REQUIRED FOR
LARGE-SCALE PARATROOP OPERATIONS. PRETORIA EMBOFF HAS
ALSO HEARD FROM SOUTH AFRICAN ACQUAINTANCES FURTHER
REPORTS OF UNEXPECTED CALL-UP OF CITIZEN FORCE PARATROOPERS,
INCLUDING MEDICAL STUDENTS, WHICH INFORMANTS SAY IS UNUSUAL.

2. THE INDICATIONS WE HAVE SO FAR ARE TOO THIN TO BE
TAKEN AS ANYWHERE NEAR CONFIRMATION THAT A LARGE CALL-UP
OF CITIZEN FORCE PARATROOPERS HAS IN FACT TAKEN PLACE.
IT IS CONCEIVABLE, HOWEVER. NATURAL PRESUMPTION IS
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00505 151029Z

THAT SUCH A STEP WOULD BE RELATED TO THE NAMIBIA
SITUATION. SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES SUGGEST THEMSELVES:

--IN REACTION TO RECENT INCREASE IN GUERRILLA ACTIVITY
(CAPE TOWN 0364), A WARNING TO SWAPO AND ANGOLA THAT SOUTH
AFRICA IS PREPARED TO TAKE FORCEFUL COUNTER MEASURES.

--PREPARATION FOR SOME SPECIFIC SWAPO ACTION ABOUT WHICH
SOUTH AFRICAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES HAVE LEARNED.

--ANTICIPATION OF MAJOR SWAPO MOVES IF THE EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE
AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT COLLAPSES AND SOUTH
AFRICA PROCEEDS WITH ITS UNILATERAL PLANS.

--A DEMONSTRATION DESIGNED TO REASSURE THE NAMIBIAN POPULATION,
AS CONSIDERATION OF THE WESTERN PROPOSALS CONTINUES, THAT
WHATEVER TRANSPIRES SOUTH AFRICA STANDS READY TO PROTECT THE
TERRITORY'S SECURITY.

3. WE WISH TO STRESS THAT THE FOREGOING IS PURELY
SPECULATIVE AND FOUNDED ON VERY SKETCHY UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 mar 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3328492
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTS OF PARATROOP CALL-UP
TAGS: MOPS, PINT, SF, SADF
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
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